



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

December 17, 2009

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: CLOSURE OF VIRGINIA'S DIRECTED OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Effective 6:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time (EST), Saturday, December 19, 2009, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will close. Vessels that have entered Virginia waters and secured to an offloading site, prior to 6:00 P.M. EST, Saturday, December 19, 2009, may possess and offload 7,500 pounds of Summer Flounder, minus any previous landings during the current 12-day landing period.

Based upon landing reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia seafood buyers and VMRC Law Enforcement, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 85% (or 786,831 pounds) of 925,683 pounds of Summer Flounder (allowable landings), by Saturday, December 19, 2009. Regulation 4 VAC 20-620-10 et seq. establishes that possessing aboard any vessel, in Virginia, any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10%, by weight, of all other landed species on board the vessel, once it has been projected and announced that 85% of the allowable landings has been attained and announced, shall be unlawful.

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M. EST, December 19, 2009, landings of Summer Flounder harvested from Federal waters, or the waters of any other state (includes the by-catch from federal waters or the harvest from waters of any other state by all gears), in Virginia, shall be limited to no more than 10 %, by weight, of all other landed species on board the vessel. Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess Summer Flounder. The buyer shall continue to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station prior to a vessel offloading any Summer Flounder harvested outside Virginia.

The buyer shall provide Operations Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646) the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time. Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the weight of the landed Summer Flounder has been determined, the buyer

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

Web Address: www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding weight of Summer Flounder landed. It shall be unlawful for any person to offload from a boat or vessel for commercial purposes any Summer Flounder during the period of 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.

Vessels seeking safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of entry into Virginia waters. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

If you have questions or comments contact Joe Grist at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Cimino at (757) 247-8068.